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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 HARARE 000172

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR AF/S

JUSCTICE FOR OIA, AFMLS, NDDS  
TREASURY FOR FINCEN  
DEA FOR OILS AND OFFICE OF DIVERSION CONTROL

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [SNAR](#)

SUBJECT: ZIMBABWE: 2005 INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL  
STRATEGY REPORT (INSCR), DRUGS AND CHEMICAL CONTROL  
DIVERSION

REF: STATE: 248987

## [I](#)I. Summary

[1](#)1. Zimbabwe is not a major producer, supplier, or exporter of drugs or precursor chemicals. Cannabis remains the biggest drug problem in Zimbabwe. The majority (80 percent) is imported, largely from Mozambique, Malawi, and Zambia. The remaining 20 percent is raised domestically. Cocaine remains the second most popular illicit drug in Zimbabwe. For many of the drugs being tracked (cannabis, cocaine and heroin), Zimbabwe is a transshipment point en route to other countries.

[1](#)2. Although Zimbabwe is a party to the 1988 UN Drug Convention and ratified the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Drug Control Protocol, a unified government program of prevention and enforcement remains underfunded and largely inactive.

## II. Status of country

[1](#)3. Production, cultivation, and trafficking in illicit drugs in Zimbabwe are limited, as is the production of precursor chemicals. A "traditional" drug in Zimbabwean culture, cannabis is cultivated in the rural areas on a small scale for local use. It remains the drug most widely abused in Zimbabwe. The majority of cannabis (80 percent) used domestically is imported from Mozambique, Malawi, and Zambia. However, most of the cannabis imported into Zimbabwe transits the country to Botswana and South Africa, which serve as regional springboards for shipments to Europe. Cocaine is now the second most popular drug in Zimbabwe, overtaking Ecstasy. Cocaine in Zimbabwe originates predominantly from Brazil and other Latin American countries. Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) report that Zimbabwe is also a transit point for the bulk of the cocaine that enters Zimbabwe's borders, primarily due to the country's central location in southern Africa.

[1](#)4. Ecstasy, the third most widely used narcotic, is predominantly consumed in the urban rave/night club party scene and is imported from the Netherlands, Britain, and South Africa. Hashish, heroin, and LSD have also been noted in very limited quantities in larger urban areas such as Harare, Bulawayo, and Gweru. Unaffordable to the mainstream population, these drugs are generally limited to affluent suburban youths. Due to its location along established routes, Zimbabwe has also been identified as a transshipment point for mandrax (methaqualone), a synthetic drug produced in India and Pakistan for distribution primarily in South Africa.

[1](#)5. Law enforcement authorities are not presently engaged in large-scale programs to combat drug use, production, or transshipment and view the narcotics problem as minor in comparison with other law enforcement challenges that they routinely face.

## III. Country actions against drugs in 2004

### Policy initiatives

[1](#)6. While a five-year Zimbabwe Drug Control Master Plan was formulated in 2000, it has yet to be fully implemented by the Government of Zimbabwe (GOZ).

### Law Enforcement Efforts/Accomplishments

[1](#)7. The GOZ's counternarcotics efforts are hampered by political turmoil and deteriorating economic and social conditions. That said, Zimbabwe's overall problems with illicit drugs are relatively small, certainly in comparison with many neighboring countries and traffickers and consumers are routinely prosecuted in the courts. Police officials report, however, that in their view judges often do not

impose sufficient punishment for narcotics-related convictions.

18. The following sets out GOZ counternarcotics arrests in 2003, the most recent year for which statistics are available.

| Drug Type            | Cannabis Herbal | Cannabis Plants |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Ecstasy              |                 |                 |
| Quantity Seized      | 462,036 KG      | 154 plants      |
| 15 tablets           |                 |                 |
| Value (1)            | \$92 407 200    | -               |
| \$750 000            |                 |                 |
| Arrested Zimbabweans | 1072            | 26              |
| 4                    |                 |                 |

Others Arrested 4

#### Medicinal Drugs

| Drug Type            | Cotrimoxazole  |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Quantity Seized      | 11 000 Tablets |
| Value (1)            | \$22 000       |
| Arrested Zimbabweans | 1              |

(1) z\$5800 = US\$1 as of 12/31/2003

#### Corruption

19. There are no known indicators to demonstrate or suggest that government officials are engaged in or encourage illicit drug production or distribution. Narco-money laundering does not appear to be a problem.

#### Agreements and Treaties

10. Zimbabwe is a party to the 1988 UN Drug Convention, as well as the SADC Drug Control Protocol. Zimbabwe has signed, but not yet ratified, the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

#### Drug Flow/Transit

11. In part because of its central location in the region, Zimbabwe is a transit point for most illicit drugs brought into the country. Most marijuana in Zimbabwe originates principally from Mozambique, Malawi and Zambia, and is re-exported to South Africa, Botswana and Europe. Cocaine imported into Zimbabwe originates from Brazil and other sources in Latin America. Heroin and mandrax entering the country generally originates in India or Pakistan, often for re-export to South Africa.

#### Domestic Programs

12. Public education campaigns and official GOZ rhetoric discourage activities involving illicit narcotics. The GOZ maintains programs for the treatment of narcotics abusers but the quality of such programs has declined in recent years due to increasingly severe budget constraints precipitated by the nation's economic crisis.

#### IV. U.S. Policy Initiatives and Programs

13. The U.S. Government neither conducted nor proposed any counternarcotics policy initiatives in Zimbabwe during the past year.

#### The Road Ahead

14. Internal political difficulties dominate events in Zimbabwe and have isolated the country. Involvement in international cooperation against narcotics trafficking awaits resolution of Zimbabwe's political difficulties and re-integration into the region.

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